Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

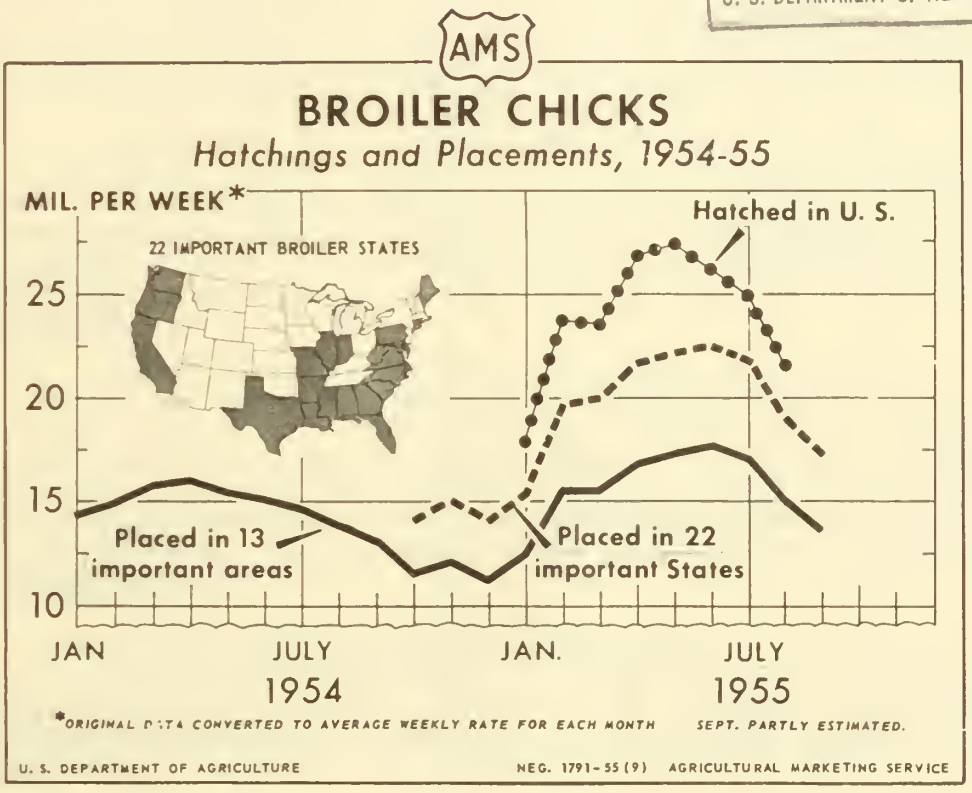
.752 F
.2
ES

FOR RELEASE
OCT. 3, P. M.
1955

The POULTRY and EGG SITUATION

PES - 179

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ OCT 14 1955 ★
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Present broiler marketings, based on placements 10-12 weeks earlier, are near record levels. Marketings in the next 2 or 3 months will be slightly smaller, but will continue above comparable 1954 output.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION AT A GLANCE

Item	Unit	Month or date	Average 1944-53	1954	1955	Month or date	Average 1944-53	1954	1955	Comments on current situation
EGGS										
Farm production	Mil. doz.	July	374.2	404.2	440.4	Aug.	332.9	387.3	407.9	
Average number of layers on farms	Millions	July	300.8	309.1	318.7	Aug.	296.0	318.8	322.8	On Sept. 1, number of layers was same as last year.
Rate of lay per layer	Eggs	July	15.0	15.7	16.7	Aug.	13.5	14.6	15.2	Far above last year despite reduced rate of culling.
Apparent disappearance of shell eggs per civilian 1/	Eggs	June	29.3	30.4	31.7	July	29.5	30.4	2/31.6	
Frozen egg production	Mil. lb.	July	22.7	18.3	25.9	Aug.	12.0	8.1	10.0	
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	July	9.4	1.9	2.6	Aug.	7.3	1.2	1.3	
Price received by farmers	Ct.per doz.	July	41.5	34.5	35.2	Aug.	44.4	37.4	39.4	
Price received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	July	92	75	76	Aug.	93	75	80	
Retail price (AMS)	Ct.per doz.	July	61.8	54.6	55.0	Aug.	64.8	58.0	61.4	
Egg-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	July	11.1	8.9	9.7	Aug.	12.0	9.6	11.1	Higher egg prices, lower feed costs, have raised this ratio.
Stocks:										
Shell	Thous.cases	Aug. 1	4,590	1,435	2,244	Sept. 1	3,740	1,031	1,678	
Frozen	Mil. lb.	Aug. 1	224.6	180.8	194.7	Sept. 1	205.0	160.8	180.0	
Chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries	Millions	July	70.1	110.8	123.6	Aug.	59.2	100.0	107.6	
Pullets not yet of laying age on farms	Millions	Aug. 1	291.3	286.7	251.1	Sept. 1	254.2	221.0	206.7	
Farm price of poultry ration	Dol.per cwt	July	3.75	3.88	3.63	Aug.	3.74	3.90	3.54	Lower prices reflect large grain supplies.
POULTRY										
Price received by farmers for chickens, live										
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	July	30.6	25.4	26.6	Aug.	31.0	24.9	26.8	Smaller supplies of young farm chickens probably a factor in higher broiler prices than year ago.
Farm chickens	Ct. per lb.	July	25.7	16.5	19.6	Aug.	25.5	16.8	18.9	
All chickens	Ct. per lb.	July	27.9	22.7	24.5	Aug.	27.6	22.0	24.1	
Price received by farmers for all chickens as a percentage of parity	Percent	July	105	76	85	Aug.	104	74	84	
Retail price of broilers and fryers dressed (AMS) 3/	Ct. per lb.	July	48.7	50.3	53.3	Aug.	50.1	51.2	53.7	
Price received by farmers for turkeys, live	Ct. per lb.	July	33.1	28.6	28.5	Aug.	34.0	27.8	29.6	Price increase over last year is greatest for heavy turkeys.
Stocks:										
Poultry, excluding turkeys	Mil. lb.	Aug. 1	86.1	93.7	57.0	Sept. 1	100.8	96.0	72.1	
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	Aug. 1	38.0	48.0	45.0	Sept. 1	32.7	50.6	48.1	
Broiler-feed price ratio 4/	Lb. feed	July	---	4.7	5.3	Aug.	---	4.6	5.4	
Turkey-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	July	8.9	7.4	7.9	Aug.	9.2	7.1	8.4	
Average weekly placement of chicks in 13 broiler areas	Millions	Aug.	---	13.9	15.0	Sept.	---	13.1	5/13.8	Below midsummer records, but still above 1954.

1/ This series has been changed from that appearing in issues of the Situation prior to 1955, and now represents only shell eggs. The complete series for 1938-54 appeared on page 24 of PES-175. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ The 10-year averages in this line are not precisely comparable to the averages for the individual months, since prior to April 1949 this item was reported as "chickens", and since then as "broilers and fryers." 4/ This differs from the chicken-feed price ratio appearing in this table prior to PES-176. 5/ Based on 3 weeks.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, September 27, 1955

SUMMARY

Egg and poultry prices received by farmers in the first half of September were higher than a year earlier, and, with feed prices lower, poultry-product/feed price ratios were above 1954. However, these ratios, which show how many pounds of feed can be bought with the value of a dozen eggs or a pound of broiler or turkey, are slightly lower than the recent 5-year averages for this season of the year.

Production of eggs in September probably was near the low point of the year and output is, or soon will be, rising seasonally. Production through August this year was 4 percent above the same period of 1954. Although output is likely to fall moderately below a year ago in the remaining months of 1955, the total for the year probably will exceed the 1954 figure of 182 million cases.

Egg prices to farmers have risen considerably since spring. In mid-August they averaged 39.4 cents per dozen compared with 37.4 in August, 1954. With demand strong, most prices in September were above August, and for a month or two they are likely to continue near the mid-September level. Since egg production this fall will not rise from the low point as abruptly as it did last year, the seasonal decline in egg prices this year is likely to be more gradual.

The 524 million chickens raised this year for laying flock replacement are 15 percent fewer than last year, resulting in 7 percent fewer pullets not yet laying September 1 than a year earlier. By January 1, 1956, the number of layers will be moderately below the year before, but likely increases in the rate of lay may bring egg production almost to year-before levels.

Present broiler marketings are substantially above a year earlier, reflecting the record placements of late June and July. Although prices in the middle of September were below July and August averages, egg settings in incubators continued about 10 percent larger than a year ago, though lower than in mid-summer. The prospective smaller output may not fully offset seasonal factors in the supply of other poultry, which points toward lower broiler prices than during the summer. Broiler prices in most

areas fell sharply in the middle 2 weeks of September, to levels about 22-23 cents per pound in most Eastern producing areas. The mid-August average price received by farmers was 26.8 cents per pound, compared with 24.9 cents a year earlier.

Turkey prices received by farmers averaged 29.6 cents per pound in mid-August, 1.8 cents higher than in August 1954. Mid-September quotations in several producing areas indicate prices generally about 4 cents a pound above 1954 for heavy birds, while light-breed turkeys are up 2 cents or less, above last year. The smaller rise for light-weight birds may be due to the greater slaughter of white turkeys of the heavy breeds at "broiler-fryer" weights. Slaughter of white turkeys at light weights will mean a smaller supply of heavy turkeys later. As a result, the actual slaughter of heavy turkeys may be less than in 1954, even though the number being raised in that breed category is about the same. The turkey hatch this year was late, and early season slaughter is below 1954, but supplies of heavy turkeys in the last 6 or 8 weeks of the year probably will be up to last year's level.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Egg Production Near Seasonal Low; Prices Above Last Year

Quotations for most grades of eggs in mid-September were 10 to 15 cents per dozen above last fall, when there was no appreciable seasonal egg price rise (table 1). Despite the fact that monthly egg production has exceeded 1954 in each of the last 5 months, and stocks of shell eggs on September 1 were 63 percent (650 thousand cases) larger than last year's small stocks, egg prices have shown about a normal seasonal rise (table 2). They are likely to be sustained for the next month or two, because monthly production on farms will rise more gradually from the low point this fall than was the case last year.

Strong demand from consumers and from storage operators last spring appears to be the principal reason why egg prices during the last several months have been above a year earlier. The increase in both shell and frozen storage last spring probably was due to the sharp cut in the number of young chickens on farms early this year, which led storage operators to expect that egg production would be reduced in the last half of 1955 when stored eggs would be moving into consumption. Consumers have taken larger quantities of eggs this year than last, even though prices have been higher (table 3).

Table 1.- Egg prices, selected dates, 1955, with comparisons

Item	1954			1955					
	Aug. 16	Sept. 15	Oct. 15	May 16	June 15	July 15	Aug. 15	Sept. 15	Sept. 23
	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.
U. S. average price received by farmers, per dozen	37.4	33.8	32.4	33.8	33.8	35.2	39.4		
Iowa prices received by farmers, per dozen 1/:									
Grade A Large	32-35	30-33	30-32	28-30	29-30	26-28	38-40	42-46	42-49
Grade A Medium	22-25	16-18	13-14	26-28	24-26	22-23	26-30	31-35	33-37
Current receipts	22-24	16-18	18	2/27-29	25-27	2/19-22	---	---	---
New York, wholesale prices									
Midwestern, mixed colors per dozen:									
Fancy heavy-weights	45-46½	44½-45½	39-39½	38-39	39-40½	37-38	47½-49½	56-58	56½-58
Extras 1, medium	35½-36½	28-28½	22½-23	35-35½	36-37	34½-35½	42-44	45-46	45-46
Nearby whites, per dozen:									
Extra fancy, heavy-weights	54-55	49-50	39-40	38-39½	42-43½	44½-46½	61-63½	63-67	61-63
Medium	35-35½	29-30	23-24	35-36	39-39½	35-35½	52-54	49-49½	49-50
Small (pullets)	24-25	21-22	19½-20	31½-32½	31-32	27½-28	31-32	34-35	31½-32
Frozen egg, per pound 3/:									
Mixed whole egg	25½-28½	26-28	23-26½	28-31	27½-30	27½-29½	28-30	26½-28½	29-32
Yolk 4/	53-55½	54½-56	54-55	51½-53	51-53	50-52	50-53	53-54	54-55
Albumen	14-18	12-17	11½-15½	18½-20½	19-21	19-21½	20¼-23	21-24	22-25
Chicago									
Wholesale price, per dozen:									
Mixed colors, extras, Large	43½-44	39½-40½	39-39½	34½-35	36-36½	33	46-47	53½-54	52½-53
Future contracts:									
September delivery (closing price)	36.10	29.00	36.75	41.70	41.55	35.25	38.25	39.85	40.45
San Francisco, wholesale price, per dozen:									
Grade A, Large	46½-47½	47½-48½	43½-44½	40½-41½	39½-40½	43½-44½	51½-52½	53½-54½	57½-58½
Grade A, Medium	37-37½	32-32½	27-27½	39-39½	39-30½	41-41½	41-41½	48-48½	50-50½

1/ "Mostly," except where otherwise stated: Friday of given week through March 1955; thereafter, prices are for given dates. 2/ Complete price range; not "mostly." 3/ Carlots. Weekly price. 4/ Highest color quoted.

Table 2 .- Eggs: Parity prices and factors involved in parity price computations by months, January 1952 to date with seasonal adjustment factors to June 1956

Month and year	Base period price, per dozen 1/	Price index (1910-14=100) (a) 2/ 3/	Price index (1910-14=100) (b) 4/	Transitional factor 5/	Effective parity price, per dozen	Seasonal adjustment factor	U. S. average price per dozen equal to 100 percent of parity	Price received by farmers: Per dozen	Price received by farmers: As a percentage of parity
	Cents			Percent	Cents	Percent	Cents	Cents	Percent
1953									
Jan.	21.5	276		80	47.4	96	45.5	45.8	101
Feb.	21.5	273		80	47.0	87	40.9	42.0	103
Mar.	21.5	275		80	47.3	87	41.2	44.7	109
Apr.	21.5	276		80	47.4	87	41.2	45.5	110
May	21.5	275		80	47.3	89	42.1	45.9	109
June	21.5	274		80	47.1	91	42.9	45.7	107
July	21.5	276		80	47.4	99	46.9	47.7	102
Aug.	21.5	277		80	47.7	107	51.0	50.2	98
Sept.	21.5	277		80	47.7	113	53.9	51.4	95
Oct.	21.5	276		80	47.4	117	55.5	53.2	96
Nov.	21.5	277		80	47.7	117	55.8	49.7	89
Dec	21.5	277		80	47.7	113	53.9	48.5	90
1954									
Jan.	16.6		282		46.8	95	44.5	46.3	104
Feb.	16.6		282		46.8	87	40.7	45.7	112
Mar.	16.6		283		47.0	87	40.9	38.7	95
Apr.	16.6		6/283		47.0	87	40.9	35.0	86
May	16.6		284		47.1	88	41.4	33.1	80
June	16.6		282		46.8	90	42.1	33.0	78
July	16.6		280		46.5	99	46.0	34.5	75
Aug.	16.6		282		46.8	107	50.1	37.4	75
Sept.	16.6		280		46.5	113	52.5	33.8	64
Oct.	16.6		279		46.3	116	53.7	32.4	60
Nov.	16.6		279		46.3	115	53.2	33.9	64
Dec.	16.6		279		46.3	112	51.9	32.7	63
1955									
Jan.	16.4		283		46.4	94	43.6	32.2	74
Feb.	16.4		283		46.4	86	39.9	39.5	99
Mar.	16.4		284		46.6	88	41.0	39.7	97
Apr.	16.4		284		46.6	89	41.5	35.9	86
May	16.4		282		46.2	90	41.6	33.8	81
June	16.4		282		46.2	91	42.0	33.8	80
July	16.4		281		46.1	100	46.1	35.2	76
Aug.	16.4		279		45.8	108	49.5	39.4	80
Sept.	16.4					111			
Oct.	16.4					114			
Nov.	16.4					114			
Dec.	16.4					111			
1956									
Jan.						94			
Feb.						86			
Mar.						89			
Apr.						90			
May						91			
June						?			

1/ Through December 1953, the base period price of 21.5 cents per dozen is the 1910-14 average. Thereafter, the base period price is the average of the preceding 10 years, divided by the index of prices received by farmers during those same 10 years. 2/ Index of prices paid by farmers, interest, and taxes, applicable for computing parity prices on the 1910-14 base (old parity, and transitional parity). 3/ The index numbers shown in this column were currently published when the parity prices were computed for 1952 and 1953. The price report for October 1954 carries revisions on these indexes. 4/ Index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and wage rates, applicable for computing parity prices on 10-year average base (modernized parity). 5/ To gradually reduce parity as computed on the old basis, bringing it in line with modernized parity, this factor in effect reduces old parity by 15 percent in 1952 to result in transitional parity, and 20 percent in 1953, etc., until transitional is no longer higher than modernized parity. 6/ Later revised to 282.

Table 3 .- Eggs: Prices, farm (including seasonal adjustment), retail, and per capita disappearance, monthly, January 1952 to date

Month	U. S. average price received by farmers, per dozen		Seasonal adjustment factor 1/	U. S. average retail price per dozen (AMS)	Farm-retail price spread 2/	Civilian per capita disappearance	
	As reported	Seasonally adjusted				Shell and frozen 3/	Shell
	Cents	Cents	Percent	Cents	Cents	Eggs	Eggs
1952							
Jan.	40.5	40.9	99	59.8	18.1	36.4	33.7
Feb.	34.7	39.9	87	55.8	20.1	35.0	32.0
Mar.	34.0	39.1	87	54.5	19.5	38.2	35.9
Apr.	35.2	40.5	87	56.0	19.7	36.5	35.0
May	34.2	39.3	87	55.5	20.3	34.2	33.5
June	35.7	39.7	90	56.6	19.8	31.2	29.9
July	43.3	44.6	97	69.2	24.6	30.7	29.9
Aug.	48.2	46.8	103	70.5	20.9	29.4	28.0
Sept.	48.7	43.5	112	71.9	21.7	28.9	27.1
Oct.	50.3	43.0	117	74.9	23.1	31.9	30.1
Nov.	51.9	44.4	117	73.3	19.8	32.0	30.4
Dec.	46.6	39.8	117	65.6	17.6	34.9	33.4
1953							
Jan.	45.8	47.7	96	64.9	17.7	37.1	34.7
Feb.	42.0	48.3	87	59.8	16.5	34.0	30.9
Mar.	44.7	51.4	87	68.5	17.5	38.3	35.5
Apr.	45.5	52.3	87	64.0	17.1	35.4	33.8
May	45.9	51.6	89	64.0	16.7	34.2	33.8
June	45.7	50.2	91	65.1	18.0	30.5	30.0
July	47.7	48.2	99	67.8	18.7	30.8	30.3
Aug.	50.2	46.9	107	69.9	18.2	29.9	29.0
Sept.	51.4	45.5	113	73.1	20.2	29.0	28.0
Oct.	53.2	45.5	117	74.7	19.8	31.8	30.0
Nov.	49.7	42.5	117	68.6	17.4	32.6	31.2
Dec.	48.5	42.9	113	66.5	16.5	35.1	33.6
1954							
Jan.	46.3	48.7	95	65.1	17.4	35.1	33.5
Feb.	45.7	52.5	87	64.3	17.2	34.1	31.2
Mar.	38.7	44.5	87	56.7	16.8	37.3	35.5
Apr.	35.0	40.2	87	53.8	17.8	35.1	34.6
May	33.1	37.6	88	52.2	18.1	34.6	34.2
June	33.0	36.7	90	50.9	17.0	31.3	30.4
July	34.5	34.8	99	54.6	19.2	30.6	30.4
Aug.	37.4	35.0	107	58.0	19.5	30.8	30.0
Sept.	33.8	29.9	113	56.0	21.2	30.7	29.8
Oct.	32.4	27.9	116	56.1	22.7	33.5	32.3
Nov.	33.9	29.5	115	54.6	19.7	34.3	33.2
Dec.	32.7	29.2	112	51.5	17.8		35.3
1955							
Jan.	32.2	34.3	94	50.1	16.9		34.8
Feb.	39.5	45.9	86	57.8	17.1		32.0
Mar.	39.7	45.1	88	59.0	18.1		36.5
Apr.	35.9	40.3	89	53.3	16.3		34.8
May	33.8	37.6	90	51.6	16.8		34.1
June	33.8	37.1	91	51.5	16.7		31.7
July	35.2	35.2	100	55.0	18.7		4/31.6
Aug.	39.4	36.5	108				

1/ For September 1955 and the following months through June 1956, the seasonal adjustment factors are, respectively: 111, 114, 114, 111, 94, 86, 89, 90, 91, and 92.

2/ Includes allowance for breakage and loss.

3/ This series has been discontinued on monthly basis; being replaced on shell basis.

4/ Preliminary.

In mid-August, the U. S. average egg price received by farmers was 39.4 cents per dozen, compared with 37.4 cents in August 1954. Since mid-August, most quotations have moved upward, in contrast to the decline in that period of 1954. Meanwhile, egg production in January-August was 4 percent above a year ago, with output in July and August up 9 and 5 percent respectively. The September 1 rate of output was 3 percent above a year earlier. However, since output is not likely to continue above last year, storers apparently are not as anxious as last year to move their stocks.

Egg production either is, or soon will be, rising seasonally though it probably will fall below last year. August 1 was the year's first-of-month low point for egg production in 1954. This year September 1 was below August 1 (table 4). The crop report to be released October 10 will indicate whether or not October 1 was still lower. The low point in the production of large eggs probably comes later than for total egg production.

Because of the smaller number of pullets this year, in line with the 15 percent cut in the number of replacement chickens raised, fewer small and medium eggs are being produced now than last fall. Consequently, the prices for such eggs are higher, compared with large eggs, than in 1954. The smaller eggs usually are good value to consumers in the fall, since their prices usually are discounted from those for large eggs by a larger percentage than the difference in weight. Furthermore, their interior quality is ordinarily superior to that of large eggs laid by older birds kept under similar conditions.

The 15 percent cut in the number of chickens raised is reflected in 7 percent fewer pullets not yet of laying age on farms September 1. The number of layers on the same date, both hens and pullets, was the same as last year (table 5). This indicates that the laying flock, which had until September 1 been larger than last year, will be smaller this fall and winter. The change from last year may not be as great as the 6-8 percent decline anticipated earlier. The extent of the decline in pullet numbers can be reasonably well anticipated after the October 10 Crop Report, which itemizes all pullets (laying and not laying) as of October 1, but there still remains considerable uncertainty regarding farmers' disposition of their hens now finishing their first laying year. So far, farmers seem to have culled fewer of them than usual. Present price relationships favor a retention of a greater-than-usual proportion of old birds.

Table 4 .- Number of layers on farms, rate of egg production, and total egg output on farms, monthly data, August 1951 to date

Item, year	Unit	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July
						(a) Monthly average data							
Average number of layers on hand	Mil.												
1951-1952		291	316	351	374	385	384	375	360	342	324	306	292
1952-1953		294	321	352	371	379	374	363	351	336	321	306	297
1953-1954		299	324	356	378	387	383	372	360	345	330	317	309
1954-1955		319	350	380	394	398	390	379	367	353	338	326	319
1955-1956		323											
Eggs laid per 100 layers	Eggs												
1951-1952		1,413	1,246	1,202	1,153	1,235	1,395	1,510	1,773	1,799	1,833	1,630	1,516
1952-1953		1,401	1,273	1,243	1,205	1,324	1,452	1,467	1,797	1,813	1,836	1,662	1,584
1953-1954		1,476	1,317	1,311	1,281	1,363	1,432	1,477	1,839	1,826	1,854	1,677	1,569
1954-1955		1,458	1,341	1,338	1,311	1,406	1,479	1,455	1,792	1,851	1,903	1,748	1,658
1955-1956		1,516											
Total monthly egg production	Mil. cs.												
1951-1952		11.4	10.9	11.7	12.0	13.2	14.9	15.7	17.7	17.1	16.5	13.9	12.3
1952-1953		11.5	11.3	12.1	12.4	13.9	15.1	14.8	17.5	16.9	16.4	14.1	13.1
1953-1954		12.3	11.9	13.0	13.4	14.6	15.2	15.3	18.4	17.5	17.0	14.8	13.5
1954-1955		12.9	13.0	14.1	14.4	15.5	16.0	15.3	18.3	18.1	17.9	15.8	14.7
1955-1956		13.6											
						(b) First-of-month data							
Number of layers on hand	Mil.												
1951-1952		285	297	335	367	382	388	381	370	351	333	315	297
1952-1953		288	301	340	364	378	380	369	357	344	329	313	300
1953-1954		294	305	343	370	386	387	378	367	353	337	324	310
1954-1955		308	330	370	390	398	397	383	375	360	346	331	321
1955-1956		316	329										
Eggs laid per 100 layers	Eggs												
1951-1952		47.7	43.5	39.5	38.1	38.7	40.9	49.1	55.1	59.3	60.6	57.6	51.0
1952-1953		46.7	43.7	41.2	39.1	41.3	44.2	49.6	55.3	60.6	60.2	58.2	52.5
1953-1954		49.7	45.6	42.3	42.4	43.1	44.9	47.5	58.0	60.6	61.1	58.6	53.3
1954-1955		48.0	46.0	43.4	42.9	44.6	46.2	49.2	54.7	60.8	62.5	60.2	56.3
1955-1956		50.6	47.3										
Daily rate of egg production	Mil. eggs												
1951-1952		136	129	132	140	148	159	187	204	208	202	182	152
1952-1953		134	132	140	142	156	168	183	198	208	198	182	158
1953-1954		146	139	145	157	166	174	180	213	214	206	190	165
1954-1955		148	152	161	167	178	183	189	205	219	216	199	181
1955-1956		160	156										

Table 5.- Chickens raised during the year, and potential layers and pullets not yet of laying age on farms, September 1, by regions, 1950 to date

Year	Region						Total, United States
	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
	(a) Chickens raised						
1950	96.0	124.3	168.2	65.6	122.3	58.8	635.1
1951	107.0	126.1	173.2	67.7	123.1	66.3	663.5
1952	106.1	117.8	151.8	67.3	112.8	61.2	617.0
1953	109.5	118.6	156.7	62.9	103.2	57.6	608.5
1954	106.2	123.0	162.6	64.0	104.5	60.0	620.3
1955 1/	96.0	101.4	134.3	55.1	84.0	53.6	524.4
	(b) Potential layers on farms September 1 2/						
1950	88.8	103.5	155.7	49.0	86.6	49.1	532.6
1951	99.7	109.9	156.3	52.4	83.3	49.3	550.8
1952	95.4	104.3	146.0	48.8	81.2	45.7	521.4
1953	103.3	103.0	142.4	49.5	78.3	54.3	531.1
1954	107.6	109.6	148.7	49.3	79.5	56.1	550.8
1955 1/	106.6	106.8	142.4	48.5	76.9	54.9	536.1
	(c) Pullets not yet of laying age on farms September 1						
1950	35.7	48.1	79.6	18.9	32.6	18.3	233.2
1951	44.7	53.1	79.9	22.4	33.7	19.8	253.7
1952	38.2	47.4	71.8	19.1	28.6	14.9	220.0
1953	43.6	45.8	71.7	18.6	27.7	18.4	225.8
1954	42.3	44.4	72.0	17.8	26.1	18.4	221.0
1955 1/	39.9	42.7	65.7	17.4	23.7	17.3	206.7

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Potential layers are hens, laying pullets, and pullets not yet of laying age.

Because fewer pullets are available for addition to the laying flock, total production is likely to increase more gradually than last year and egg prices should not drop off sharply from their seasonally-high levels. By December, however, prices will likely be declining toward springtime levels.

Eggs in Storage: Shell, Frozen, Above Last Year

In response to low prices this spring and the expectation of reduced output of shell eggs later in the year, the 1955 storage of shell eggs reversed the downward trend of recent years. Almost 2.3 million cases were held in storage on July 1, roughly 50 percent more than in either 1953 or 1954. The 195 million pounds of frozen egg held on August 1 (equivalent to 5 million cases) were 5 percent above the 1954 peak, and the highest since 1948. Year-to-year changes in frozen egg stocks are less abrupt than for shell eggs. (See tables 6, 7, and 8.)

The seasonal leveling-out of egg production over the last several years has shortened the period for taking shell eggs from cold-storage. If the weekly withdrawals indicated by 35-city reports continue at the rate of late August and early September, these stocks would not be reduced to bare-shelf levels until early December. Barring unusual weather conditions, this is beyond the time when fresh egg production has to be supplemented by eggs from storage.

Current stocks of frozen egg are also ample in relation to past requirements. However, the situation for frozen egg differs from shell eggs in that (a) storage is a normal source of frozen egg for a longer time than for shell, (b) much of this year's frozen egg, prepared from low-priced shell eggs, may prove to have a lower cost than frozen egg broken out later, and (c) the pincers of relatively high carrying charges and declining quality are not an inducement toward as quick use of stored frozen egg, as they are for shell.

Only Moderate Decline From Year Before In Prospective Egg Production

Early-season indicators pointed to a much sharper decline from 1954 in late-1955 egg production than now seems likely. While the extent of the prospective cut cannot yet be foretold with certainty, it now seems that the earlier estimate of 6-8 percent fewer potential layers on January 1, 1956 than a year earlier over-estimated the decline. The September 1 estimate of chicken numbers indicated no significant

Table 6 .- Storage stocks of shell eggs, during the out-of-storage season, United States and 35 principal cities, 1952 to date

Date 1/	Stocks as reported				Decrease from previous week or month			
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1952 2/	1953 2/	1954 2/	1955 2/
	Thousand cases	Thousand cases	Thousand cases	Thousand cases	Thousand cases	Thousand cases	Thousand cases	Thousand cases
	(a) United States, first of month							
July 1	3,357	1,513	1,639	2,292	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.3)	(0.2)
August 1	2,728	1,199	1,435	2,244	.6	.3	.2	3/
September 1	2,169	827	1,031	1,678	.6	.4	.4	.6
October 1	1,709	494	833		.5	.3	.2	
November 1	1,000	288	636		.7	.2	.2	
December 1	393	137	325		.6	.2	.3	
	(b) 35 principal cities, weekly							
July 2	2,438	1,047	1,219	1,783	58	7	(17)	(3)
9	2,349	1,033	1,200	1,782	89	14	19	1
16	2,213	991	1,151	1,769	136	42	49	13
23	2,095	935	1,084	1,760	120	56	67	9
30	2,027	859	1,031	1,728	68	76	53	32
August 6	1,930	802	979	1,675	97	57	52	53
13	1,843	718	916	1,584	87	84	63	91
20	1,728	647	858	1,477	115	71	58	107
27	1,648	585	794	1,376	80	62	64	101
September 3	1,581	537	755	1,276	67	48	39	100
10	1,484	511	716	1,208	97	26	39	68
17	1,401	431	680	1,086	83	80	36	122
24	1,342	377	616	985	59	54	64	101
October 1	1,272	304	593		70	73	23	
8	1,149	261	581		123	43	12	
15	1,045	223	544		104	38	37	
22	908	203	503		137	20	41	
29	765	182	465		143	21	38	
November 5	621	168	414		144	14	51	
12	477	147	363		144	21	51	
19	356	115	308		121	32	55	
26	289	93	263		67	22	45	
December 3	225	77	232		64	16	31	

1/ Weekly dates are for 1955; other years, corresponding weeks. 2/ Parentheses denote increases. 3/ Less than .05.

Table 7 .- Storage stocks of frozen egg, during the out-of-storage season, United States and 35 principal cities 1952 to date

Date 1/	Stocks as reported				Decrease from previous week or month			
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1952 2/	1953 2/	1954 2/	1955 2/
	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases	Thou. cases
	(a) United States, first of month							
July 1	4,323	4,149	4,836	5,036	(534)	(713)	(499)	(596)
Aug. 1	4,243	3,970	4,696	5,057	80	179	140	(21)
Sept. 1	3,749	3,466	4,177	4,676	494	504	519	381
Oct. 1	3,212	2,854	3,605		537	612	572	
Nov. 1	2,476	2,256	3,064		736	598	541	
Dec. 1	1,882	1,585	2,459		594	671	605	
	(b) 35 principal cities, weekly							
July 2	2,625	2,358	2,698	2,687	(67)	(74)	(89)	(90)
9	2,639	2,371	2,741	2,733	(14)	(13)	(43)	(46)
16	2,639	2,357	2,766	2,733	0	14	(25)	0
23	2,596	2,305	2,762	2,763	43	52	4	(30)
30	2,544	2,275	2,762	2,783	52	30	0	(20)
Aug. 6	2,513	2,221	2,710	2,773	31	54	52	10
13	2,465	2,170	2,660	2,772	48	51	50	1
20	2,385	2,101	2,593	2,722	80	69	67	50
27	2,314	2,020	2,523	2,669	71	81	70	53
Sept. 3	2,251	1,929	2,464	2,602	63	91	59	67
10	2,154	1,882	2,415	2,551	97	47	49	51
17	2,047	1,813	2,336	2,457	107	69	79	94
24	1,977	1,725	2,256	2,372	70	88	80	85
Oct. 1	1,880	1,654	2,171		97	71	85	
8	1,813	1,571	2,113		67	83	58	
15	1,714	1,496	2,014		99	75	99	
22	1,598	1,386	1,937		116	110	77	
29	1,494	1,285	1,849		104	101	88	
Nov. 5	1,385	1,177	1,761		109	108	88	
12	1,304	1,085	1,680		81	92	81	
19	1,200	995	1,576		104	90	104	
26	1,130	903	1,485		70	92	91	
Dec. 3	1,015	793	1,394		115	110	91	

1/ Weekly dates are for 1955; other years, corresponding weeks.
2/ Parentheses denote increases.

Table 8 .- First-of-month storage stocks of frozen egg by type, during out-of-storage season, United States, 1952 to date

Date	Stocks as reported				Decrease from previous month			
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1952 1/	1953 1/	1954 1/	1955 1/
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.
				(a) Mixed whole egg 2/				
July 1	74.9	71.1	77.8	84.6	(9.3)	(15.8)	(7.9)	(10.4)
August 1	76.1	68.9	78.2	86.5	(1.2)	2.2	(0.4)	(1.9)
September 1	67.2	60.9	70.6	82.3	8.9	8.0	7.6	4.2
October 1	59.7	49.4	61.1		7.5	11.4	9.5	
November 1	45.9	38.1	51.9		13.8	11.3	9.2	
December 1	33.5	25.7	41.0		12.4	12.4	10.9	
				(b) Frozen yolk 2/				
July 1	41.0	36.1	42.8	52.6	(6.0)	(4.6)	(4.6)	(7.7)
August 1	41.0	34.1	40.4	51.8	3/	1.9	2.4	0.9
September 1	38.0	29.2	36.5	47.1	3.0	4.9	3.9	4.6
October 1	33.2	24.6	31.5		4.8	4.6	4.9	
November 1	27.7	19.7	27.0		5.5	4.9	4.5	
December 1	23.5	14.7	21.6		4.2	5.0	5.5	
				(c) Frozen albumen 2/				
July 1	50.5	51.8	65.6	56.7	(5.3)	(6.2)	(6.7)	(4.9)
August 1	46.2	49.8	62.2	56.4	4.2	2.0	3.4	0.3
September 1	39.1	43.4	53.7	50.6	7.1	6.4	8.4	5.9
October 1	30.7	35.9	46.1		8.4	7.5	7.6	
November 1	21.8	29.1	39.0		9.0	6.8	7.2	
December 1	15.5	20.6	32.1		6.3	8.5	6.9	

1/ Parentheses denote increases.
2/ Amounts as reported plus a pro-rate of the quantity reported as "unclassified".
3/ Less than .05 million pounds.

change from last year in the number of hens and pullets now laying, and only a 7 percent decline from a year ago in the number of pullets not yet of laying age.

The 7 percent decline in pullets not yet laying is consistent with the estimated 15 percent decline in number of chickens raised this year for laying flock replacement. In the past, the percentage change in pullets saved has been about half the percentage change in chickens raised. The estimate of chickens raised indicates a considerably smaller decline from last year's chicken numbers than was shown by the hatchery reports or the estimates of young chickens on farms for the first of April, May, or June. Table 9 shows that the commercial hatchery output of replacement (nonbroiler) chicks in January-June was 22 percent below 1954, and the first-of-month numbers of young chickens for April-June were respectively 28, 19, and 18 percent below 1954. (This year there was no July 1 estimate of numbers of young chickens.)

So far, farmers for the most part seem to have been keeping a larger proportion of their hens than in the fall of 1954. Since fewer pullets are maturing this year, there is less pressure to provide laying house space for new birds. Also, egg prices are higher than last year and feed prices are lower, providing an incentive to keep layers for a longer period.

The rate of lay per bird is expected to continue above a year earlier the rest of 1955 and total production probably will be 2 or 3 percent higher than would be indicated by the reduction in the size of the laying flock. (On July 1 and August 1, despite lighter culling that was reported at that time, rates of lay per bird were respectively 6 and 5 percent above 1954.) To September 1 this year, total egg production was 4 percent ahead of 1954. Even though production in the remaining months of the year is expected to be below a year earlier, the total for 1955 is likely to be above 1954.

Broiler Prices Induce Continued Large Placements

By mid-September, quotations for broilers in most producing areas were down a cent or two from a month earlier, but in the third week of the month prices declined even further, to levels generally about 22-23 cents per pound in the East and South. For the week ending September 24, the DelMarVa price averaged 23.8 cents, compared with 27.7 cents 4 weeks earlier, and 20.1 cents a year earlier. The U. S. average price to farmers in mid-August was 26.8 cents per pound, compared with 24.9 cents in August 1954, and 23.0 cents in mid-September 1954 (table 10).

Table 9 .- Indications of laying flock replacement, 1955 with comparisons 1/

Item	Unit	As reported			1955 as a percentage of 1954	
		1953	1954	1955	For the month	Cumulative
Farmer's intentions to buy chicks	Percentage of year before	96	100	82		
Sexed chicks purchased	Percentage of total purchases	42	43	2/42		
Hatchery output of replacement chicks						
January	Mil.	---	---	32.2	---	
February	Mil.	---	---	67.0	---	
March	Mil.	---	3/202.5	147.8	73	70
April	Mil.	---	3/192.2	155.7	81	75
May	Mil.	---	3/109.8	95.5	87	77
June	Mil.	---	3/34.1	31.7	93	78
Chicks and young chickens on farms, first of month						
April 1	Mil.	215	255	184	72	
May 1	Mil.	379	410	332	81	
June 1	Mil.	471	504	415	82	
July 1	Mil.	464	476	4/	---	
Chickens raised		609	620	5/524	85	
Pullets on farms Jan. 1 following	Mil.	281	291			

1/ This table supersedes table 3 which appeared in PES-178.
2/ Intentions.
3/ Derived figures.
4/ July estimates for this series have been discontinued.
5/ Preliminary.

Table 10.- Broilers: Prices in selected areas, September 15, 1955 with comparisons, and weekly chick placements related to those prices

Area	Average weekly placements 10-12 weeks prior to:		Prices received by farmers, per pound		
			Sept. 15, 1954		Sept. 15, 1955,
	Sept. 15, 1954	Sept. 15, 1955	Market News quotation, "mostly"	Mid-month farm price for principal State in Area	Market News quotation, "mostly" 1/
	Thou.	Thou.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.
Maine	634	692	19-23	23.0	23-25
Connecticut	546	536		23.0	24.0
Indiana	747	771		24.4	25-29.0
Del-Mar-Va	3,007	3,338	21¾-22¾	22.7	25-25.5
Shenandoah Valley	1,023	1,161	21-22	23.0	24-25
N. Car. (C and W)	1,232	1,510	23½	23.5	24.0
Georgia	3,424	3,896	22½	22.5	24.0
Florida	206	214		25.5	
Alabama	976	1,337	22½	23 5	24.0
Mississippi	894	911	22.0	23.0	24-25.5
Texas	1,434	1,807	22-23	22.6	24-25
Oregon	130	150		24.5	
California	1,089	1,086	24-25	27.0	27-29
13 areas	15,342	17,409			

August and early September marketings of broilers were based, in general, on chicks placed in late May and June. At that time, weekly placements in 13 specialized broiler areas were running 20-22 percent above the year before (table 11). At that level, between 17 and 18 million weekly, they were the largest ever reported for these areas, which account for about 2/3 of the U. S. annual broiler production.

Placements declined in August, and the rate of 13½ million weekly in 13 areas in mid-September was only slightly higher than a year ago. Broilers from these placements will be marketed in November and December. Broiler chick placements normally decline at this season of the year, partly because of a seasonally-reduced supply of hatching eggs, and

Table 11.- Broilers: Numbers of chicks hatched, and placements in specialized areas, available data, 1954-55

(Including data for cover chart)

Month	Numbers of broiler chicks, converted to equivalent average weekly rate						
	Placements in 13 specialized areas		Placements in 22 important States		Broiler chick output in commercial hatcheries		
	1954	1955	1954	1955	1955	1955 as a percentage of corresponding 1954	1954, derived
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Pct.	Mil.
Jan.	14.3	12.4	---	15.3	17.8	---	---
Feb.	14.9	15.5	---	19.6	23.7	---	---
Mar.	15.7	15.5	---	19.9	23.6	98	24.1
Apr.	16.0	16.7	---	21.6	26.8	104	25.7
May	15.4	17.2	---	22.1	27.4	112	24.5
June	15.1	17.6	---	22.4	26.1	117	22.3
July	14.7	17.0	---	21.7	24.9	---	---
Aug.	13.9	15.0	---	18.9	21.6		
Sept.	13.1	13.7	---	17.2			
Oct.	11.5		14.1				
Nov.	12.1		15.0				
Dec.	11.2		14.0				

partly in anticipation of reduced demand for broilers in the last few months of each year when marketings of other poultry are increasing (table 12). Broiler prices this summer, and to date this fall, have been sustained by several factors. The effects of some of these may be waning, and it is possible that recent declines in broiler placements may be insufficient to offset a reduced demand. Factors in the high summer demand were the unusually small supply of other poultry (by-product cockerels, turkeys), seasonally low supply of pork, and the popularity of broilers for outdoor cooking.

Changes in the supply of other poultry have been, and will continue to be, significant to broiler producers. This spring the number of by-product cockerels raised with replacement pullets was 15 percent below last year. The resulting reduction in supplies of by-product

Table 12.- Broilers: Total monthly placements, selected reporting areas, January 1949 to date

Year	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
7 areas												
1948-49				17.0	18.0	20.7	23.0	22.5	20.7	19.9	17.4	15.9
1949-50	19.8	24.6	27.1	26.9	27.9	35.8	32.1	31.2	31.1	32.0	31.7	31.1
1950-51	29.8	29.0	31.2	35.6	36.8	42.0	43.5	44.4	41.6	39.9	36.0	32.7
1951-52	32.6	34.3	44.3									
11 areas												
1950-51				40.9	44.2	50.9	52.3	53.7	49.9	48.4	43.3	38.8
1951-52	38.9	42.0	47.3	53.0	58.5	61.0	53.4	51.2	49.1	44.6	40.8	40.1
1952-53	45.1	48.1	52.3	53.3	49.0	59.1	58.1	58.5	54.8	49.8	46.1	43.7
1953-54	49.2	54.9	57.9									
13 areas 1/												
1952-53				57.8	53.8	64.3	63.5	64.1	59.7	54.8	50.4	48.1
1953-54	53.2	58.6	62.0	63.8	59.5	69.6	68.5	67.9	64.6	65.6	61.2	56.2
1954-55	51.4	51.9	49.3	55.5	62.0	68.6	71.5	76.4	75.6	75.5	66.8	
22 important States 2/												
1954-55	58.5	64.4	61.3	68.5	79.0	88.2	92.4	98.0	96.0	96.2	84.1	

1/ The 13 areas are: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Del-Mar-Va, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maine, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oregon, Shenandoah Valley of Va. and W. Va., and Texas.

2/ The 22 important States are shaded on the inserted map of the cover chart of this issue.

cockerels during the late summer offset at least a third of the increase in commercial broiler output. However, by mid-October the bulk of by-product cockerels will probably have been sold.

Broiler prices also have been affected by the fact that slaughter of turkeys to date this year has been below last year. This situation will change later, when the large hatch of late-season poults will be sold for the holiday markets.

Turkey Prices
Above Year-Ago

Mid-September quotations for heavy turkeys were higher than a year earlier in each of the producing areas where price comparisons are possible. This reflects the reduction in the early-season hatch, and the corresponding reduction in supplies now ready for market. Also, somewhat lower stocks in storage than a year earlier, and higher prices of other poultry, have tended to strengthen turkey prices.

Recent prices of light-weight turkeys have also been above a year ago, although generally by smaller margins than for heavy turkeys. At about 30 cents per pound for broiler-fryer turkeys in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and West Virginia, they were 2 cents above 1954, while for heavy turkeys in California the margin above a year ago was 4 cents or more (table 13).

The timing of the hatch of 1955 turkeys, and the distribution of the various types, may tend to keep prices above last year well into the marketing season. Although the 63.1 million turkeys being raised this year are about 4 percent below last year's record crop (table 14), the early season marketings--probably through October--are likely to be significantly below 1954. Through April, cumulative heavy-breed hatchings were 13 percent below 1954, and through June hatchings of light-breed poults (which mature more quickly) were down 27 percent. USDA's weekly slaughter report indicates that in 6 of the 8 weeks following August 1, 1955, turkey slaughter has averaged below the year before.

Later in the year, however, turkey slaughter will be much closer to 1954 levels. Monthly hatchings of heavy-breed poults since May 1 have been ahead of 1954, and light-breed hatchings, mostly of Beltsville, have come closer to (although still below) year-ago levels. The general effect of this upon the probable timing of marketings is indicated in table 15.

Table 13-. Turkey prices, per pound: Selected series, October 1951 to date

Season	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
						(a) U. S. average farm price, mid-month (live)						
1951-52	35.8	37.8	39.6	37.1	36.1	34.5	34.5	32.0	32.3	31.9	32.6	33.2
1952-53	32.9	33.7	34.6	33.6	33.3	33.6	33.3	32.5	31.7	32.3	32.7	32.4
1953-54	33.3	33.9	34.5	33.4	34.0	33.6	33.1	31.1	31.3	28.6	27.8	27.7
1954-55	27.1	28.6	29.6	26.4	28.1	29.5	29.1	28.4	29.1	28.5	29.6	
						(b) Live, heavy type young toms, San Joaquin Valley, California, first day of Month 1/						
1951-52	29-30	31½-32	36-37	34-35	34-37	---	25-26	24-26	25-27	---	27	30½-32
1952-53	28-29	29-30	29½-30	28½-29½	---	---	---	29	---	---	29½-31	29-30
1953-54	28-29	28-29	28-29	29-30	---	---	---	---	25-26	24-25	24-25	24
1954-55	22-22½	23-24	23-24	21½-23	---	---	---	---	25-26	28	27	27-29½
						(c) Live, heavy type hens, San Joaquin Valley, California, first day of month 1/						
1951-52	35-35½	38½-39	43-45	40-41	34-35	23-26	28-30	28-29	27-28	---	28	32
1952-53	32-32½	33	33½-34	---	---	---	---	29	---	---	32	32
1953-54	33	35-35½	36½-37½	---	---	---	---	---	26	28	28	28
1954-55	28	31-32	31½-32	---	---	---	---	---	25-26	30	29	30½-31
						(d) Frozen eviscerated toms, heaviest weights quoted, New York City, first day of month 1/						
1951-52	64-66	60-63	60-63	59-61	59-61	58-58½	56-58½	59-61	60-63	57-60	57-59	61-64
1952-53	58-60	54-58	53-57	53-55	55-56½	53-55	52-55	56-58½	56-60	55-59	56-59	55-57
1953-54	55-59	53-56	51½-54	51-54	51-54	51½-54½	49½-53½	49-53½	50-52	46½-49	47-49	47-49
1954-55	46½-49	44-48	43½-46	43-45	44-48	44½-48	46-49	47½-50½	48½-52½	49½-53	51-54	55½-57
						(e) Frozen eviscerated hens, 12-14 pounds, New York City, first day of month 1/						
1951-52	63-65	56-66	66-69	65-67	65-67	61-63	57-60	59-62	59-62	56-59	55-57	57-59
1952-53	57-59	56-59	56-58	56-59	56-58	54-57	54½-57	62-64	61-64	59-61	56-59	55-57
1953-54	56-57	58-60	59-60½	60-61½	60-61½	60-61½	59½-61½	---	---	51-53	45½-48	48-49½
1954-55	47-49	49½-51	51-53	48-51	48-51	48-50	48-50	51½-53½	51½-53½	50-52	48-49½	49½-51
						(f) Live, Beltsville Small Whites, Shenandoah Valley, Virginia and West Virginia, first day of month 1/						
1951-52	38-39	43	41-43	39-40	36-38	37-39	38-39	35	35	30	30	35
1952-53	36-37	37-38	37-38	42	40½	42-43	42-43	38	35	33	32-33	33
1953-54	33-33½	36½	37½	37	35	37	33	30	30-31	27-29½	26-26½	27½-28
1954-55	29	31-32	32	28	30	30	30	31	31	30½-31	30-30½	30-30½
						(g) Ice-packed New York dressed, Beltsville Small Whites, New York City, first day of month 1/						
1951-52	48½-49	53-54	50-51	---	47½-48	48-50	49½-50	46-47	43-44	41-41½	39-39½	45-46
1952-53	47½-48	47½-48	49-50	53½-54	52½-53	55½-56	51-52	48-49	43-44½	43-44	41½-42	42½-43
1953-54	41½-42	44-45	46½-47	47-48	44½-45	44½-45	42½-43	38½-39	36-37	36½-37	33½-34	35½-36
1954-55	36½-37	38½-39	39-40	37-38	36½-37	39½-40	39-40	38-38½	38½-39	39½-40	37-38	38-38½
						(h) Live, heavy type toms, Iowa, first Friday of month						
1952-53				---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	30
1953-54	30-30½	29-31½	30-31	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	24½	26
1954-55	24-24½	23-24	25-25½	20-23	---	23½	---	20-22	---	---	27	29-31
						(i) Live, heavy type hens, Iowa, first Friday of month						
1952-53				---	---	---	---	---	---	---	34½-35½	33-34
1953-54	34½-35½	38-38½	39-40	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	28	30½-30½
1954-55	29-30	32½-33	35-35½	---	27½	---	---	---	---	32-33	30½-31½	34

1/ Or first following day when quotation is available.

Table 14.- Turkeys: Number raised, by breed types, by regions, 1954 to date

Region	Light breeds		Heavy breeds		Total	
	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
N. Atlantic	1.2	1.0	4.2	3.8	5.4	4.8
E. N. Central	2.3	2.2	6.8	6.3	9.1	8.5
W. N. Central	5.2	3.8	12.2	13.3	17.5	17.1
S. Atlantic	6.5	6.0	5.5	4.8	12.0	10.8
S. Central	1.4	1.1	4.3	4.3	5.7	5.4
Western	2.2	2.0	14.1	14.4	16.2	16.4
United States	18.9	16.1	47.1	47.0	65.9	63.1

Table .- Turkeys: Monthly hatchings, by breed types, lagged to indicate prospective month of marketing

Month	Heavy breed hatchings six months previous			Light breed hatchings four months previous			All turkeys: sum of preceding columns 1/		
	1954	1955	1956	1954	1955	1956	1954	1955	1956
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Jan.	1.2	1.4	1.9	0.4	0.7		1.6	2.1	
Feb.	0.1	0.1	0.3	.4	.7		0.5	0.8	
Mar.	2/	2/		.7	1.0		.7	1.1	
Apr.	2/	.1		1.3	1.7		1.3	1.7	
May	.1	.2		1.8	1.3		1.9	1.5	
June	.3	.5		1.7	1.1		2.0	1.6	
July	1.2	1.2		1.8	1.1		3.0	2.3	
Aug.	3.4	2.7		2.3	1.7		5.7	4.4	
Sept.	9.4	7.6		3.3	2.4		12.7	10.0	
Oct.	13.9	12.6		3.0	2.6		16.9	15.2	
Nov.	13.4	14.5		2.4	2.2		15.9	16.8	
Dec.	7.7	8.8		1.3	1.2		9.1	10.1	

1/ Obtained from unrounded figures. Totals may not add due to rounding.

2/ Less than 0.05 million.

The table assumes a 6-month span between hatching and slaughter for all heavy-breed turkeys. However, it is likely that many white-feathered turkeys, nominally classified as heavy breeds, will be slaughtered this year at light weights and early ages. In Minnesota 20 percent of the January-August hatchings were of that type poult, with 51 percent other heavy breeds, and 29 percent light breeds (table 16). Figures for other States are not available; but there appears to have been a general increase in the proportion of Broad White turkeys this year. If many Broad Whites are slaughtered early, they can considerably offset the reduction from last year in the number of small-breed turkeys available. (Last year, light-weight Broad White turkeys were not an important factor in the market.)

To the extent that Broad White turkeys are slaughtered at weights corresponding to the Beltsvilles, they reduce the actual supply of heavy turkeys from the level indicated by the hatchery reports and by the estimates of number of heavy turkeys being raised this year. Because those reports classify Broad Whites as heavy turkeys, while disposition of many

Table 16.- Turkeys: January-August hatchings, Minnesota and United States, by breed types, 1954 and 1955

Area, season	Number of poults				Percentage distribution		
	Heavy breeds		Light breeds	Total	Heavy breeds		Light breeds
	Broad Whites	Others			Broad Whites	Others	
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent	Percent
Minnesota							
1954	1/	5,046	3,715	8,761	1/	56	42
1955	1,508	3,820	2,197	7,525	20	51	29
United States							
1954	1/	50,541	17,726	68,267	1/	74	26
1955	1/	49,711	13,583	63,294	1/	79	21

1/ Not separately reported; Whites included with other heavy breeds.

Table 17.- Turkeys: Number raised and sold, and prices received by farmers, 1948 to date

Year	Turkeys raised by breed			Turkeys sold from farms		Price received by farmers, per pound, liveweight			
						Wtd. average, calendar year	Simple average		
	Heavy	Light	Total	Number	Total, (liveweight)		Calendar year	Year beginning Oct.	4 mo., Oct. through following Jan.
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.lb.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.
1948			31.5	30.0	549.4	46.8	41.0	41.0	47.4
1949			41.3	39.8	747.5	35.2	38.0	31.9	34.0
1950			43.8	42.9	796.9	32.8	31.5	34.6	33.1
1951			52.5	50.9	911.2	37.4	35.9	34.8	37.6
1952			60.9	60.5	1,019.0	33.6	33.8	33.1	33.7
1953	1/	1/	57.1	56.2	955.0	33.6	33.1	31.9	33.8
1954	47.1	18.9	65.9	62.6	1,075.6	28.8	30.2		27.9
1955	47.0	16.1	63.1						

1/ Percentage changes indicated in Farm Production, Disposition of Turkeys, March 1955 and adjusted to add to 57.1 million, would indicate 41.9 heavy-breed turkeys raised in 1953, and 15.2 million light breeds. These entries differ from the estimates in the August 20, 1954 release on "Number of Turkeys Raised," which has since been revised.

of them is actually in a weight class with the Beltsvilles and other light-weight breeds, the hatchery reports and estimates of turkeys raised overstate the size of the crop of heavy turkeys, and understate the prospective slaughter of light-weight birds. Prices of the respective classes of turkeys to date seem to corroborate this, since for heavy-breed birds (for which the 1955 number being raised is reported to be the same as last year) prices are roughly 4 cents above 1954, while for broiler-fryer turkeys (of which Beltsville and similar turkeys raised are down 15 percent), prices are only about 2 cents above the same period last year.

Table 18.- Turkeys: First of month U. S. storage stocks, monthly, 1945 to date and weekly, 35 cities October 1954 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
					(a) Monthly, U. S.							
1945	73	74	63	46	33	29	27	21	18	27	43	78
1946	108	135	135	124	107	97	79	63	55	45	84	117
1947	128	140	126	109	95	86	72	59	45	39	65	86
1948	83	83	70	55	41	33	27	19	13	15	34	47
1949	51	55	51	44	36	33	29	21	21	35	76	107
1950	127	138	129	113	93	77	64	47	37	43	77	108
1951	110	117	101	80	60	48	39	30	25	42	83	109
1952	107	116	107	93	72	63	56	46	44	71	142	158
1953	147	143	118	92	72	60	53	44	46	69	126	135
1954	122	125	109	97	79	69	57	48	51	78	141	147
1955	121	124	111	93	71	60	52	45	48			
					(b) Weekly, 35 cities							
Weeks 1/	1955									1954		
First	70	73	65	54	42	37	29	24	26	45	89	84
Second	73	71	63	49	41	35	28	25	27	52	96	88
Third	74	69	62	48	39	32	27	25	29	60	88	81
Fourth	75	67	59	46	37	31	26	25	35	68	77	69
Fifth	74			44			26			79		

1/ Holdings on successive Saturdays of each month.

Turkey storage operations based on the 1954 crop were profitable, since dressed turkey prices rose during the period when stocks were taken from storage. Holdings, which at their February 1 peak were almost the same as the year before, were used at a faster rate than in 1954 and stocks through the summer were several million pounds lower than in 1954; but in mid-August the storage holdings began to move upward, despite the reduced early crop. This timing of the reversal of storage movement from net-out to net-in is about the same as in 1953 and 1954 (table 18).

More Favorable Feeding Ratios for Poultrymen

Poultry feed prices have declined in recent months, with the result that the mid-August average cost of poultry ration was $3.54 per 100 pounds, 9 percent below both mid-August 1954, and the 1954 average. Coupled with higher egg and poultry meat prices, this has resulted in a marked improvement over a year ago in the egg-feed price ratio and the other poultry product-feed price ratios (table 19). Although these ratios are generally slightly below the long-time averages, the long-time averages had been so favorable as to stimulate current poultry and egg output to record or near-record levels. Also, increasing efficiencies in production, particularly in feed and labor requirements per unit of output, have tended to reduce the ratio necessary to maintain any given level of net return.

Table 19.- Poultry ration cost, and poultry-product/feed price ratios, mid-August 1955, with comparisons

Period	Poultry ration cost, per 100 lb.	Ratio (U. S. farm price basis)			
		Egg-feed	Chicken-feed	Broiler-feed	Turkey-feed
	Dol.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
		(a) Annual averages			
1948-52	3.91	11.4	7.1	1/	9.3
1953	3.86	12.3	6.6	5.1	8.6
1954	3.87	9.4	5.4	4.3	7.9
		(b) Mid-August averages			
1948-52	3.89	12.1	7.2	1/	9.2
1953	3.84	13.1	6.6	5.3	8.5
1954	3.90	9.6	4.6	4.6	7.1
1955	3.54	11.1	6.8	5.4	8.4

1/ Data unavailable prior to 1953.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid payment of postage $300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

AMS-PES-179-9-55

NOTICE

If you no longer need this publication, check here ☐ return this sheet, and your name will be dropped from the mailing list.

If your address should be changed, write the new address on this sheet and return the whole sheet to:
Agricultural Marketing Service,
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

ERNEST ROSS
1617 PUTNAM RD
8-30-54
FNS-6 COLUMBUS 10 OHIO

Gml
1002 cc